



Cat!

Atter her, atter her,
Sleeky flatterer,
Spitfire chatterer,
Scatter her, scatter her

Wuff!

Wuff!

Treat her rough!
Git her, git her,
Whiskery spitter!
Catch her, catch her,
Green-eyed scratcher!
Slathery
Slithery
Hisser,
Don't miss her!
Run till you're dithery,
Hithery
Thithery
Pfitts! pfitts!
How she spits!
Spitch! Spatch!
Can't she scratch!
Scritchng the bark
Of the sycamore-tree,
She's reached her ark
And's hissing at me
Pfitts!Pfitts!
Wuff! Wuff!
Scat,
Cat!
That's
That!

By Eleanor Farjeon

Catalogue

Cats sleep fat and walk thin.
Cats, when they sleep, slump;
When they walk, pull in-
And where the plump's been,
there's skin.
Cats walk thin.
Cats wait in a lump. Jump in a streak.
Cats, when they jump, are sleek
As a grape slipping its skin --
They have technique.
Oh, cats don't creak. They sneak.
Cats sleep fat.
They spread comfort beneath them
Like a good mat,
As if they picked the place
And then sat.
You walk around one
As if he were the City Hall after that.
-Rosalie Moore

Pictures of Cats

Examining the breeze.
A package neatly wrapped with tail
Flicks a whisker
Pleased.

Upon the stair.
Taking the air.
Unquestioned owner
Of the comfortable chair.

Napping everywhere
Stretched in the sun
As if the sun were hers
Awash in warmth
And furs.

The flow of a cat walking
Over the lawn
To place herself like a soft stone
In the middle of the paper
I am working on.

-Karla Kuskin

The Naming of Cats

The Naming of Cats is a difficult matter,
It isn't just one of your holiday games;
You may think at first I'm as mad as a hatter
When I tell you, a cat must have THREE DIFFERENT NAMES.

First of all, there's the name that the family use
daily,
Such as Peter, Augustus, Alonzo or James.
Such as Victor or Jonathan, George or Bill Bailey—
All of them sensible everyday names.

There are fancier names if you think they sound
sweeter,
Some for the gentlemen, some for the dames:
Such as Plato, Admetus, Electra, Demeter--
But all of them sensible everyday names.

But I tell you, a cat needs a name that's particular,
A name that's peculiar, and more dignified,
Else how can he keep up his tail perpendicular,
Or spread out his whiskers, or cherish his pride?

Of names of this kind, I can give you a quorum,
Such as Munkustrap, Quaxo, or Coricopat,
Such as Bombalurina, or else Jellylorum-

Names that never belong to more than one cat.
But above and beyond there's still one name left
over,
And that is the name that you never will guess;

The name that no human research can discover--
But THE CAT HIMSELF KNOWS, and will never
confess.

When you notice a cat in profound meditation,
The reason, I tell you, is always the same:
His mind is engaged in a rapt contemplation
Of the thought, of the thought, of the thought of
his name:
His ineffable effable
Effanineffable
Deep and inscrutable singular Name.
TS Eliot

Resting

In a sun pool
Like a curled fur shell you lie
Breathing light purrs,
Inhaling the scene
Through one green crescent,
One half-open eye.

When our cat is at rest
Our house is at rest
and so is the earth and sky. -Karla Kuskin

Cats Sleep Anywhere

Cats sleep anywhere, any table, any chair.
Top of piano, window-ledge, in the middle, on the
edge.
Open draw, empty shoe, anybody's lap will do.
Fitted in a cardboard box, in the cupboard with your
frocks.

Anywhere! They don't care! Cats sleep anywhere.

-- Eleanor Farjeon

July Cat

Tootsie, you fur ball,
I cry.
The world is aflame
on this day in July.
And you in that cat coat
are hotter than I.
So shy,
if you want to be free
of the fur-curling heat,
are you sitting on me? --Karla Kuskin

He's nothing much but fur
And two round eyes of blue.
He has a giant purr
An a midget mew

He darts and pats and the air
He starts and cocks his ear.
When there is nothing there
For him to see and hear.

He runs around in rings,
But why we cannot tell:
With sideways leaps he springs
At things invisible-

Then half-way through a leap
His startled eyeballs close,
And he drops off to sleep
With one paw on his nose.

Dogs

This is a Secret
and has the
potential for extreme
embarrassment,
but the truth is
that,
after I've navigated
a day of
pointless assignments,
fake smiles,
and crowded, shoving hallways,

I long only to
discard my life – everything in it -
and bury myself
in the deep armchair
of your smell.

Sleeping with your Dog

Now I lay me down to sleep,
The king-size bed is soft and deep.
I sleep right in the center groove
My human being can hardly move!
I've trapped her legs, she's tucked in tight
And here is where I pass the night
No one disturbs me or dares intrude
Till morning comes and "I want food!"
I sneak up slowly to begin
my nibbles on my human's chin.
She wakes up quickly,
I have sharp teeth-
I'm a puppy, don't you see?
For the morning's here
and it's time to play
I always seem to get my way.
So thank you Lord for giving me
This human person that I see.
The one who hugs and holds me tight
And shares her bed with me at night! ---

Things We Can Learn From a Dog

**Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.
Allow the experience of fresh air and
the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
When loved ones come home, always run to greet
them.
When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
Let others know when they've invaded your
territory.
Take naps & stretch before rising.
Run, romp & play daily.
Eat with gusto & enthusiasm.
Be Loyal.
Never pretend to be something you're not.
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
When someone is having a bad day, be silent,
sit close by & nuzzle them gently.
Thrive on attention & let people touch you.
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
On hot days, drink lots of water & lay under a
shady tree.
When you're happy, dance around & wag your
entire body.
No matter how often you're scolded,
don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...
run right back & make friends.
Bond with your pack.
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Author Unknown**

Mr. Beefy

I am not thin,

But I am beautiful

When no one is looking

I steal tubs of butter off the table.

I take them to the basement to eat in private.

ONCE I ATE A PIE.

- Patricia MacLachlan from *Once I ate a Pie*

The Things I Love

Walks and treats and belly rubs.

Drinking from a hose.

Balls and treats and squeaky toys.

Kisses on my nose.

Car rides with the window down.

treats, a scratch, a run.

Frisbees, treats, an open field.

Sleeping in the sun.

Grass and treats and chasing cats.

Beds with downy sheets.

Being next to you, of course.

Oh! Did I mention treats?

-Linda Ashman from *Stella, Unleashed*

The Dog by Ogden Nash

The truth I do not stretch or shove
When I state that the dog is full of love.
I've also found, by actual test,
A wet dog is the lovingest.

Do you take this dog to be your friend?
Will you see her through tangles and mats?
Through dog days and kennel stays?
Do you promise to put down your book
When she sits upon your lap?
And be faithful to her, and her alone?
As long as you both shall live?

I do.

- Maya Gottfried from *Good Dog*

THE DOGS WHO HAVE SHARED OUR LIVES

**The dogs who've shared our lives.
In subtle ways they let us know
their spirit still survives.
Old habits still make us think
we hear a barking at the door.
Or step back when we drop
a tasty morsel on the floor.
Our feet still go around the place
the food dish used to be,
And, sometime, coming home at night,
we miss them terribly.
And although time may bring new friends
and a new food dish to fill,
That one place in our hearts
belongs to them...
and always will.**

---Linda Barnes ---